No 34
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Paper March 10th
1827
W. R. H.

An Essay
On
Typhus Fever
By
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Of
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Sansom St. No 38

Of Typhus Fever.

Typhus is derived from a greek word, which signifies stupor, an affection of the sensorium, which occurs more or less in most continued fevers. The cause of this disease has been imputed to contagion; but whether or not it depend on this for its propagation, we will neither pretend to affirm nor deny. Dr. Chapman, whose opinion should be strictly attended to on every medical subject, appears to admit it as a fact to a limited degree. Whether it be contagious or not is a matter of very little importance as it will not vary the treatment to any considerable extent. Atmospherical influence may be brought forward as another cause of typhus, by which a predisposition may be induced in the system, and then brought into action by any of the exciting causes of fever.

The action of typhus (if it proceed from contagion) we are informed by the same author, whom we cited above, is very limited, never affecting an adjoining room or surrounding persons, only at the distance of a few feet, if the apartment be well ventilated; and we are told by the same author that the disease occasioned by fomites is much more malignant than when acquired immediately from the patient — Typhus prevails most in cold and temperate climates, disappearing as the heat of summer approaches, and is often met with in jails, hospitals and other crowded and ill ventilated places — This disease has been too commonly mistaken for one of real debility and the practical deduction from such principles has often proved the source

of the failure and apparent inefficacy of the healing art: whilst the inexperienced practitioner pours down stimulants upon stimulants to raise the system from that debility, which he conceives it labouring under, he finds that life recedes apace and at last he abandons every effort, and has the sad mortification to see his fellow-being sink into the arms of death, which an opposite and well regulated treatment would have prevented. Doctor Armstrong divides typhus into its simple, inflammatory and congestive forms, but it is principally to the latter, that the following observations are applicable. In the first there is only a simple excitement of the heart and arteries: in the second there is an universal increase of heat and excitement; while in the third and last

there are none of these phenomena present, but the viscera are engorged and this stage of the system is succeeded by a general collapse without any regular excitement: these constitute the only difference between the several forms of the disease. In the congestive typhus the remote cause exerts so deadly an influence on the nerves that the elasticity and energies of the system are so overpowered and oppressed by consequent venous congestion, that it is not able to develope an universal excitement without the assistance of art. The danger and difficulty of managing this disease will be in a direct ratio to the degree of congestion and the absence of reaction.
In cases of congestion, the local accumulations of venous blood counteract the common phenomena of febrile action,

and consequently there is either a total or partial want of fluid heat while some parts of the body are internally and externally cooled, there are others, which are considerably below the natural standard — In consequence of this want or divided state of circulement venous blood is morbidly accumulated in some parts of the system, by which the functions and structure of some important organs or organs are affected and disorder — Such engorgements of blood may exist in different organs in the constitution habitual, but we are informed that the large vessels about the right side of the heart, that of the brain, liver and spleen are most seriously and frequently affected —

In every case of congestion the balance between the arterial and venous systems

is disturbed in proportion as the congestion is greater or less. The circulation in the vessels of the surface is very languid while the deep seated organs are engorged with a superfluity of blood and may not the fullness and obstruction of the vessels be ascribed to the distention and fullness of the larger vessels, as it generally rides after blood-letting, by which the energies of the heart and arteries are again brought into action: Not unfrequently "a congestion is converted into an inflammatory state, and the case is settling by the plain chart."

The remote cause exerts such an influence on the nervous system and the heat of the surface becoming diminished there is a centripetal tendency of the fluids, and the action of the heart being previously disturbed it cau-

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

of the head: pains in the limbs but more about the back, but somewhat cold and numb in the extremities with a determination to the brain slightly furred tongue in the commencement but quickly coated with a brown or yellowish dry tongue and the stools become dark and different but in the more advanced stage the urine is scanty, high and the stools retained: some minutes dilated or contracted just previous and finally death closes the dreadful scene of mortality. In more indignant cases there are frequent vomitings from the gums and nose, with red or the stools or delirium towards the termination become more uncertain and different the pulse weaker and more frequent the skin colder and of the stools and urine is retained or scanty the case may be considered desperate indeed

are with almost always a remarkable paleness. But on the other hand in the slower and chronic cases demands the presence of blood in over and cause the whole pulse and figure with a warm skin a remarkable congestion may generally be drawn.

Treatment.— Nearly all cases have a stage of obstruction, redement and congestion but this cannot be said of the brain congestion stage in which the obstruction is so great as totally to suppress secretion or render it very scanty and imperfect. In some instances of this form of fever where the congestion is not so great the stage of obstruction is found to find a redement and the mucous membranes read to crack under a simple or an inflammatory character. In cases where the first deletion together with remedies have been repeated in consequence of

the expected death was a consolation which not inconsiderable, since a relief to death by convulsions, the latter occurred to his constitution and severing the little hand of the man that was the treatment which was attended for in relief. The treatment consisted of medicine and the treatment to doubt the remedy, and was one of the general good-looking in the death. It must be employed in the commencement of an attack, the use to be continued until you see the case and after the use it, bearing in mind to remove the local complaint and to attend the convulsions of the constitution in a general manner. The number of blood to be drawn is uncertain, but it will be by a lancet to the veins or arteries, sometimes it may be drawn from the arm or after a fit

accident it rushed forth in a full stream. When a considerable quantity of blood cannot be obtained from the arm to relieve the congestion, it may be easily effected by fastening the temporal artery transversally and briefly dividing it transversely enough and then drawn by such a tube, but if the loss of blood: had of under the direction, the patient should remain a longer or greater time upon its employment it should be somewhat of the direction, and as the pain of the bite indicates its propriety. If not so warm in mind, some warm tea should be imbibed, and the patient immersed in a warm bath after it is removed from the bath the surface should be well dressed with tepid and cider, or some such stimulating, mild and bathed with hot flannels after such fatigue-statement of the emergent and then we may

generally treated with impunity. From the history of the system it would seem necessary to caution the practitioner against the use of the lancet and to consider the dormant nature of the system from that state of torpor or the means used upon Greater Britain will as a general rule. At the beginning of short main accidental injuries on the water when the arm is tied up in a hammock. Large bleedings should superseded in all cases by opening a small horam at a time or only partially the immediate symptoms but by large bleedings we abstract the blood at once and bring to a final solution. Although venesection and the warm bath are of primary importance we derive infinite advantage from other remedies such as calomel and other purgatives together with a tonic

on the side of the stomach and liver
In that long series of cases concerned in order
of congestion the alvine evacuations of bile
will generally be found annatto, dark and
solid and in many exhibit fungoid
in such succession with a view of removing
the annatto colour and odour of
the secretion of the intestines, but so long
as there is some morbid constitutional de-
ction in the system the action of the liver
may cease, mucous matter accumulate
in the intestines continue to secrete bile annatto
accumulate in distance of the system of
inorganic and that morbid also of an
other be eradicated
However correct our knowledge of the cause
and effect in such cases may be, it must
not be forgotten in the hope of the complete
ment of the remedies of early and decision
of disease to the detriment of more

[illegible] use of stimulants in a [illegible]
[illegible] the opium [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] and ether, but for much [illegible]
cannot be expected on the machinery is
[illegible] the inner coat for their [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] may be also [illegible] in the
last stage at the inner coat stomach
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
determine Doctor Chapman advises steam,
warm mask and the carbonate of ammonia
but [illegible] the latter [illegible] the
exhibition of stimulants is at all doubtful,
as its action is more analogous to that
of death. The cause in the more advanced
stage [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] coming on, he has
found great advantage from the use
of ammonia alone or with steam
and [illegible] [illegible] Carbonate [illegible] [illegible]

been represented as producing beneficial effects in this disease.
The brain though not the seat of this disease becomes often secondarily affected, and in this case it is of primary importance to shave the head and apply cloths dipped in cold water until we completely subdue the heat: from this measure we have had the pleasure to see the most decided and happiest results when there was a throbbing in the temporal arteries, and the heat about the head preternaturally excited. Then also cupping, leeching, and finally blisters may be beneficially employed, especially the latter when delirium exists. During the whole treatment the apartment of the patient should be kept cool and well ventilated and he should be lightly covered with bed clothes. The drink should be cool and taken in small quantities. During convalescence the

diet should be strictly regulated. The patient should be allowed nothing but what is of a mild nature, such as the farinaceous articles, gruel &c. and that in small quantities occasionally repeated, as errors in diet or a full meal will very often produce a secondary fever. The bowels should be kept soluble until health has returned. The employment of stimulants and tonics during convalescence, we are informed is generally decidedly hurtful and should be abandoned in most cases as highly prejudicial. The use of peruvian bark is favourably spoken of by Doctor Chapman in one stage of typhus. He says "There is a period however in the progress of this fever to be learnt by attention to the pulse and other circumstances at which bark may be introduced with advantage. It is neither at the commencement nor at the close of the case."

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